



NEWSLETTER



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SPRING26

Celebrate the Texas Coast with us on April 18th!



This year, Adopt-A-Beach is celebrating its 40th Anniversary of keeping Texas beaches clean. We have fun activities planned throughout the year and hope you can join us at an upcoming cleanup! The 40th Anniversary Adopt-A-Beach Spring Coastwide Cleanup will be held **Saturday, April 18th** at multiple locations along the coast. Cleanup check-in site registration begins at 8:30 AM. Scan the QR code to find all the participating sites on the Cleanups page of our website. For those of you in Galveston, you can participate in the cleanup in the morning, then head over to the GLO's Coastal Roundup for some more fun afterwards!



The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is excited to host our 2026 Coastal Roundup at East Beach (R.A. Apffel Park) on **Galveston Island** on Saturday, April 18th! The Coastal Roundup is a one-day free public event being held from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and will have booths from a wide variety of local and state coastal and wildlife organizations, food trucks, music, and kid-friendly activities. Follow along on Facebook and get a sneak peek at some of the vendors! Bring your friends and family and learn more about how the GLO and our partners care for and protect our beautiful Texas coast.

The following hotels have graciously offered discounted rates to Adopt-A-Beach volunteers during our cleanup weekends:

**Corpus Christi
Doubletree by Hilton**
3200 East Surfside
Corpus Christi, TX 78402
361-883-9700

**Port Aransas
Beachcomber Motel**
(Fall Cleanup only)
539 South 12th Street
Port Aransas, TX 78373
361-749-6191

**Executive Keys
Condominiums on the
Beach**
(Fall Cleanup only)
800 Access Road 1-A
Port Aransas, TX 78373
361-749-6272

**South Padre Island
Isla Grand Beach Resort**
500 Padre Boulevard
South Padre Island, TX 78597
956-761-6511
April group code: 264ADOPTAB
September group code: 26ABEACH09

Cleanup Sponsors:



ExxonMobil



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WATCH OUT FOR RIP CURRENTS!

April in Texas is Rip Current Awareness Month.

Rip currents can occur at any beach with breaking waves, and they account for more than 80% of rescues performed by surf beach lifeguards nationwide. These currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore that can pull even the strongest swimmers out to sea.

As waves roll toward shore and over sandbars, a pressure gradient is created due to the changing water levels between the sand bars and the channels alongside them. Sometimes you can spot a rip current because it can look darker than surrounding waters. They are areas where waves do not break, but with breaking waves on either side. You can sometimes see water, or seaweed, moving away from the beach in a channel between the breaking waves.

If you see someone in trouble, get help from a lifeguard and throw the victim something that floats. Many people drown while trying to save someone else from a rip current.

Most beaches have a flag warning system that warns swimmers of rip currents in the area. A green flag (low risk) indicates that strong rip currents are not likely. A yellow flag (moderate risk) means that there is a good chance for strong rip currents and a red flag (high risk) signals that strong rip currents are expected. Check the beach warning flags every time you go to the beach and be Rip Current Aware!

Information compiled from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Lifesaving Association, and the Weather Channel.

Rip Current Safety Tips: (from NOAA)



- **Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly. Rip currents do not pull people under water, they pull them away from shore.**
- **Never fight against the current.**
- **Think of it as a treadmill that can't be turned off, which you need to step to the side of.**
- **Swim out of the current in a direction following parallel to the shoreline.**
- **If you are unable to swim out of a rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim toward shore.**
- **If you are still unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arm and yelling for help.**



Don't Forget!

Download the CleanSwell App so you
can track the kinds of trash you find!



SCIENCE CORNER



Beach Cleanups are for the Birds

This spring, millions of migratory birds will travel thousands of miles along the Texas coast, using our beaches as critical resting and feeding spots. Among them is the American Golden-Plover, a remarkable traveler who will fly over 20,000 miles each year from South America through the Gulf Coast to the Arctic and back. These incredible journeys demand safe habitats—but beach litter can be deadly. Plastic bags, fishing lines, foam and bottle caps can entangle birds or be mistaken for food, causing injury or death. By joining beach cleanups, you help remove these hazards and support healthy ecosystems. Every piece of trash matters. Thank you for protecting wildlife and preserving the beauty of our coast for generations to come!



Photo credit: Greg Lavaty, texastargetbirds.com

249

Total Miles Cleaned

11,910

Total Volunteers

117,531

Total Pounds Collected

2025 CLEANUP TOTALS

BEACH ADOPTERS SPOTLIGHT



Randy & Dawn Bissell

Over the past 40 years, the Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Program has supported and coordinated beach cleanups that could only happen with the energy and dedication of our volunteers. Some have taken the next step to become a Beach Adopter these are GLO-supported individuals, organizations and businesses who have pledged to clean up a specific Texas beach site three times a year, for two years.

For Randy and Dawn Bissell of Corpus Christi, caring for Texas beaches isn't just a volunteer activity, it's a way of life. They have been cleaning parts of Mustang Island State Park since 2017 as a Beach Adopter, however their love and care for the ocean started much earlier. Both enjoy the outdoors, yet when a health scare arose, they decided to pack in as many visual memories of the beach as possible. Their favorite destination? Mustang Island State Park. Sunday afternoons on the island became a ritual, and soon, picking up litter was part of the experience.

"I've never regretted cleaning a stretch of beach," Randy says. "It's not a big deal, it's just proper stewardship."

Thankfully, their health has recovered, but their commitment never wavered. Today, they're out there often, grabbers and buckets always in the trunk.

For Randy, a Texas Master Naturalist and geologist, beach cleanups are more than environmental—they're educational opportunities. He and Dawn host university students and volunteers and even take their grandchild to the beach to remove debris. "There's never an absence of opportunity," he notes.

Interactions with curious children on the beach are highlights in volunteerism. Their joy and interest in helping to clean (with the parent's permission of course) always brings a smile. Randy provides a trash grabber for folks to do their own cleanups. "There's no better experience than involving the next generation."

The Bissells have seen progress in the overall reduction of beach trash over the years, and they believe their local beaches are in better shape now than a decade ago. There are lots of individuals, groups, and partnerships cleaning our beaches now, inspired by the Adopt-A-Beach Program. Still, challenges remain, and volunteers are vital.

What keeps them cleaning? "You get that sense of accomplishment and see that beauty when going home - it's fulfilling," according to Randy. Pairing it with anytime you're near the beach helps too: "Build it into your lifestyle as a citizen," he advises.

Randy and Dawn's story shows that small, consistent actions can make a big difference. Ready to join them? Adopt your own stretch of Texas coastline today!

Become a Beach Adopter



Beach Adopters pledge to clean their favorite beach at least three times a year for a two-year commitment. Scan the QR code to learn more about our Beach Adopter program and see a list of current Beach Adopters!

Current Beach Adopters





Winter Cleanup Results!

COUNTY	CLEANUP SITE	VOLUNTEERS	MILES CLEANED	POUNDS
Cameron	South Padre Island - County Beaches	215	3.0	5,160
	South Padre Island - City Beaches	94	2.0	705
	COUNTY TOTAL	309	5	5,865
Nueces	Port Aransas	18	3.0	135
	Cole Park (Bay)	69	1.5	383
	Packery Flats (Bay)	91	2.0	1,050
	Aransas Pass (Bay)	42	1.0	640
	COUNTY TOTAL	220	7.5	2,208
TOTAL		529	12.5	8,073

Get the Adopt-A-Beach License Plate



The Texas General Land Office specialty license plate design features a photo by Texas' own Kenny Braun. Braun's work has been featured in Garden and Gun, Texas Monthly, Wired, Southern Living, Texas Highways, This Old House Magazine and more.

The plates are available to purchase for \$30 in addition to your annual registration fee, with \$22 of that donated to the Adopt-A-Beach program's all-volunteer effort to keep trash off Texas beaches.

The license plate was designed by the Texas General Land Office in coordination with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. To order a specialty Adopt-A-Beach license plate and get yours, visit <https://texasadoptabeach.org/contribute/license-plates/index.html>.

